

LEARN2SOAR FREE KS1 ASSEMBLY

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- TEXT KEY: Normal text = notes and ideas. *Italic text = text that can be read straight out.*
- THEME: Doing Our Best At All Times
- SONG: "I Just Want To Do My Best" From "Songs 4 Assemblies FS/KS1"
- AIM: To show the children that to achieve anything in life, you have to try your best at all times, keep practising and never give in.
- INTRO: In front of the children, interview any parents, children or teachers in your school who've won a competition. Ask them the following three questions:
- Did you do your best?
 - How long had you practiced for?
 - Did you ever feel like giving in?
- Alternatively, you could ask the same three questions of some children who have just achieved something new for the first time, e.g. learning to swim / riding a bike / tying their shoelaces!
- Summarise the interviewed person's comments and highlight the fact that to achieve anything in life, you have to try your best at all times, keep practising and never give in.
- STORY: This story is about a girl called Yue who has to learn to play part of Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons". If you have a copy of this piece of music, perhaps you could play some of it during the assembly or as the children are entering or leaving.
- The story does not specify what 'season' Yue had to play – you can choose that bit for yourself to keep it in line with the time of year during which you're presenting this assembly.

The Story Of Yue, Her Violin And The Spider

Yue was a ten-year-old girl who had an amazing talent. Ever since she was three years old, she had been learning how to play the violin and she was now very, very good at it!

She always played in her school assemblies and often played in church. She played at home and even when she went on holiday, her violin went with her so she could keep practising for at least two hours every day!

Now one beautiful spring morning, Yue received a special invitation. It wasn't a party invitation though like you or I might receive! This was a public performance invitation. It meant that Yue

had been invited to play her violin in six months time at a big concert, in front of thousands of people, accompanied by a very big orchestra!

Yue had never done anything like this before! She was so excited at the thought of so many people hearing her play her violin, that she accepted the invitation straight away!

The only catch was that Yue would have to learn to play a difficult piece of music called “The Four Seasons,” which had been composed a few hundred years ago by a man called Vivaldi. It was an extremely long piece of music, but thankfully Yue only had one section to learn, which was all about... (Please add the season of your choosing here).

Now as the weeks went by and the concert got nearer, Yue began to realise that this beautiful piece of music was in fact very, very, very difficult to play. The problem was that parts of it went so fast, that she didn’t understand how she was supposed to fit so many notes in, so quickly! She had heard recordings of other people playing the music, so she knew it could be done. But Yue was beginning to wonder if this piece of music was just too hard for her.

Yue had a special violin teacher called Mr. Lee, who was a famous violin player himself. To help Yue learn how to play this incredibly fast music, Mr. Lee had shown Yue new ways of playing the violin, but at the moment, nothing seemed to be working. Yue still kept making lots of mistakes.

Time flew by and before long, Yue realised that there was only three weeks left until the concert was due to take place. Yue was supposed to start rehearsing with the orchestra the very next day and she was desperate to get it right. She was at home, in the middle of a long practice session with Mr. Lee and the poor girl was beginning to despair. She was still playing so many wrong notes!

Suddenly, after making what seemed like her twentieth mistake of the morning, she threw her violin down in frustration and stormed off upstairs, shouting,
“I’M NOT PLAYING AT THE CONCERT. IT’S TOO HARD. I CAN’T DO IT!”

Yue ran into the bathroom, locked the door, collapsed in a heap on the floor and sobbed.

In vain, Mr. Lee and Yue’s family all tried to coax Yue out of the bathroom, but Yue just sat there in tears, ignoring them all.

Then as she sat there weeping, she saw a tiny spider near the corner of the bathroom ceiling. Yue hated spiders and would normally have shouted for her mum to come and get rid of it, but at that moment, she felt too tired and upset to bother. Therefore, she just sat there, watching the little, black spider in silence.

The spider was trying hard to spin a little web but it was having a difficult time. Somebody had run a hot bath earlier and there was still condensation all over the walls and ceiling, making them dangerously wet for the poor spider. It seemed like every time the small creature was just getting started on his web, he’d slip down and would have to start all over again.

After the spider had fallen down for about the tenth time, Yue thought,
“That’s it, he’s got to give in now!”

*But to Yue's amazement, the spider didn't give in, but kept trying again and again and again!
Eventually, after a long while, the clever spider had at last spun a beautiful web.*

Yue thought about the spider and thought about her violin. Then Yue came to an important decision. If this little spider could keep trying over and over again, without giving up, then so could she! Yue unlocked the door, went downstairs, got her violin and started practising all over again.

And do you know what? Within a short time – she'd got it! Yue was at last able to play the music all the way through without any mistakes!

A few weeks later, Yue performed at the concert, which was a tremendous success.

Afterwards, in front of all the watching audience she said thank you to her mum, thank you to her dad, thank you to her violin teacher, and thank you...to the spider who taught her never to give up!

SUMMARY: *Often in life we have to do new things, which can seem hard and difficult. It's easy to want to give in. But if we do what Yue and the clever spider did, if we just keep trying without giving up, then we too can achieve anything we want.*

PRAYER: *Dear God,
When we're faced with a difficult task and we feel like giving up, help us to have the patience to keep trying.
Help us to always put our best effort into all the work that we do.
Amen.*